

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER:JU

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, KE, UNESCO

SUBJECT: KENYAN OFFER TO HOLD 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF UNESCO (OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1976) IN NAIROBI

REF: PARIS 20043

1. PERMDEL MAY INFORM KENYAN REP THAT U. S. HAS NO INTEREST
IN HOSTING 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE.

2. ALTHOUGH, AS PERMDEL AWARE, U. S. NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR UNESCO IS PLANNING TO HOST SEVERAL UNESCO MEETINGS OF
EXPERTS ON CULTURAL TOPICS THAT MAY BEAR ON GENERAL BI-
CENTENNIAL THEMES (E.G. "DE TOCQUEVILLE REVISITED" AT YALE
AND BOSTON FOLLOWUP TO TAMPA CONFERENCE ON U. S. CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENTS), THIS RELATIONSHIP IS INCIDENTAL TO SUBSTANCE
OF MEETINGS AND NO DIRECT LINK TO BICENTENNIAL IS CONTEM-
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PLATED.

3. U. S. IS OPPOSED TO SPENDING SUBSTANTIAL SUMS TO HOST MEETINGS WHOSE LOCATION IS IRRELEVANT TO THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF THE MEETINGS, AS FOR EXAMPLE IN CASE OF POLICY-MAKING ORGANS LIKE GENERAL CONFERENCE OR EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND SIZE AND DURATION OF UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE WOULD IN ANY CASE PLACE VERY CONSIDERABLE STRAIN ON LIMITED U. S. CONFERENCE RESOURCES.

4. IN ADDITION TO OUR GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR "ROAD SHOWS" OF THIS KIND, WE HAVE NUMEROUS OTHER RESERVATIONS ABOUT KENYAN PROPOSAL TO HOLD GC IN NAIROBI. DESPITE KENYAN REP'S ASSURANCE RE AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES IN NAIROBI FOR PROPOSED U. S. 19TH GC EXHIBIT COMMEMORATING U. S. BICENTENNIAL, WE SEE PROBLEMS THAT COULD ARISE IN THIS CONNECTION, INCLUDING QUESTION OF GREATLY INCREASED SHIPPING COSTS. (WE DOUBT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GOK WOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COSTS INVOLVED IN SHIPPING EXHIBIT TO NAIROBI AND MOUNTING IT THERE AND COMPARABLE PARIS EXPENSES.) WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED BY POSSIBLE BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS FOR UNESCO AS WELL AS INEVITABLE QUESTION OF CREATING UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT AT TIME WHEN SIZE, COMPLEXITY AND LOGISTICS OF ORGANIZATION ARE FAR DIFFERENT FROM WHEN A GC WAS LAST HELD AWAY FROM PARIS.

5. HOWEVER, BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION RE KENYAN PROPOSAL WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ADDRESSING PROBLEMS OUTLINED ABOVE AND, IN PARTICULAR, PROVIDING VIEWS OF SECRETARIAT ON COSTS, FEASIBILITY, DESIRABILITY, ETC. WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF REACTIONS OF OTHER PERMDELS WHOM WE ASSUME MUKA WILL NOW PROCEED TO LOBBY. KISSINGER

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